

**IN THE ABSTRACT:**

Please replace the abstract with:

A welding apparatus for welding two or more overlapping members having a tenacious surface oxide layer, the apparatus comprising a plasma arc torch operable to form a weld pool in a work piece, and weld pool disturbing means operable, in use, to disturb a weld pool formed by the plasma arc torch, the weld pool disturbing means comprising a disturbing member which is movable into the weld pool. The apparatus may include a support member adapted to support the weld pool.

**REMARKS**

Applicant respectfully requests examination of this application.

Respectfully submitted,

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